

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

1. (Currently amended): An impeller having a disk-like main plate, a blade joined to said main plate, and a side plate having a suction port, characterized in that:

a boss hole is formed in a central portion of said main plate for attaching a boss which engages with a pump shaft to said boss hole,

wherein a step portion is formed around the boss hole, which is formed in said main plate by drawing, said step portion constituting means for forming a gap so that when a plurality of main plates are piled on one another, ~~[[a]]~~ said gap is formed by said step portions of adjacent main plates to prevent said adjacent main plates from being adhered to each other.

2. (Previously presented): The impeller as recited in claim 1, characterized in that when said gap is set to be in a range of 0.3 mm to 0.4 mm.

3. (Currently amended): An impeller having a disk-like main plate, a blade joined to said main plate, and a side plate having a suction port, characterized in that:

a boss hole is formed in a central portion of said main plate for attaching a boss which engages with a pump shaft to said boss hole.

wherein a step portion is formed around the boss hole, which is formed in said main plate by drawing, said step portion constituting means for forming a gap so that when a plurality of main plates are piled on one another, said gap is formed by said step portions of adjacent main plates to prevent said adjacent main plates from being adhered to each other; and

a radially inner end portion of said blade which is joined to said main plate is rounded near a portion at which said blade is joined to said main plate.

4. (Previously presented): A multistage pump characterized by comprising a plurality of intermediate casings, impellers, as recited in claim 1, housed in respective intermediate casings, and a main shaft for supporting said impellers.

5. (Previously presented): A multistage pump characterized by comprising a plurality of intermediate casings, impellers, as recited in claim 2, housed in respective intermediate casings, and a main shaft for supporting said impellers.

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. §1.111  
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6. (Previously presented): A multistage pump characterized by comprising a plurality of intermediate casings, impellers, as recited in claim 3, housed in respective intermediate casings, and a main shaft for supporting said impellers.